ably at the Assembly session, should be held annually at specified times and places with a view to create a keen and intelligent public interest in municipal affairs.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

99. The desirability of certain improvements to Nagercoil Town.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) pointed out that certain streets in the interior of the town of Nagercoil were bauly congested and insanitary and proved a menace to the public health of the town. The percolation of water from the channels and tanks and the stagnant pools formed thereby in certain places rendered matters worse. To remedy the evil, he suggested that a few tap roads should be opened, that some of the narrow streets should be widened and that certain portions of the congested area should be acquired by the Government and resold in bits to house-builders. He also suggested the widening and levelling of the existing Sircar lanes and the opening of two or three short roads. That would encourage people to put up good buildings on either side of those roads. As an instance of a lane, he referred to the lane joining the Town road and the Cape road about 500 yards west of the Kazhuvanthittai Bungalow.

The Member next said that public subscriptions to the extent of Rs. 1,000 had already been collected with a view to open a park in the town in commemoration of the Imperial Coronation. The fund was lying idle for want of a proper site. He requested that the Government should be pleased to grant a site for the purpose. He also requested that a Public Library be opened in the Town.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

100. Water-supply for the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. Manthramoorthi Pillai (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) spoke of the scarcity of good drinking water in the town of Nagercoil, especially in the hot weather and said that the use of the bad water in the wells was often the cause of the outbreak of epidemics. He also referred to the danger to the public health of the town by the stagnation of Kodayar water from the channels in several parts of the town. He requested that the Government might be pleased to take such steps as would supply the town with a sufficient quantity of good drinking water.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

101. The desirability of increasing the Government grant to the Town Improvement Committee at Padmanabhapuram.

Mr. S. Lakshminarayana Iyer (Member, T. I. C., Padmanabhapuram) said that, before the constitution of a Town Improvement Committee at Padmanabhapuram, the Government,used to spend about Rs. 1,800 per annum towards the sanitation of the town and that, since the organisation of the Committee, the Government grant was fixed at Rs. 500 per annum. He added that the town stood in need of considerable improvement, by providing more lights, strengthening the T. I. C. staff etc., but the funds at the disposal of the Committee were hardly enough to meet the additional requirements. Padmanabhapuram, he stated, was more important than many of the other towns under which category it had been placed so far as the Government grant was concerned. He therefore requested that the Government might be pleased to increase the present grant to the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

102. Suggestions for the improvement of the sanitation of the town of Trivandrum.

Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai B. A., B. L., (Member, Trivandrum taluk) said that, as compared with other towns, the town of Trivandrum was far more important as being the seat of the capital, to which people from all parts of the State had to come on several occasions. The health of the town was therefore of paramount importance and required greater attention at the hands of the Government. He

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then mentioned the following as a few of the defects in the administration of the town and suggested certain measures for remedying the same :—

(1) With the increase in the number of vehicles passing to and fro and the advent of motor cars, the roads of the town were full of dust, and no one could walk along the roads after 8 A. M. without seriously risking his health. The difficulty was accentuated by the heat of the sun. The necessity for watering the roads was therefore imperative and it should be arranged for.

(2) It was an evil to have introduced private scavenging without making adequate arrangements for the timely removal and the proper disposal of night-soil The number of scavengers appointed was, he said, far below the minimum required. He suggested that their number should be liberally increased or the scavenging system should be confined to limited areas. He ventured to say that the old pit system was even better than the present scavenging arrangement defectively worked.

(3) There was a large number of filthy tanks within the town, whose beds were used as public privies, such as the Chengichoola tank, the Vaniankulam and the tank near Tampanur. In the interests of the health and safety of the town, they should either be improved and maintained properly or covered up.

(4) Efficient arrangements should be made for the proper supply of drinking as well as bathing water to the town. He said that the health of Trivandrum was really worse than what it was 20 years ago and diseases such as elephantiasis, malaria &c., were taking root and had begun to show themselves in places like Sreevarahom, Manakad and Chalai. The Health Office of the town had not, he said, justified its existence by the adoption of either preventive or curative measures. In that connection, he pointed out that the Trivandrum town did not require an officer of the rank and pay of the present Health Officer. Under the existing arrangement, neither harmony nor discipline could be expected. He therefore suggested the appointment of a younger man on less pay, who could be expected to work under the orders of the President. The chief defect in the present staff of the Committee was that it contained too many officers on the higher ranks, some of them superfluous such as the Connemara Market Sergeant, and a very limited number of menial servants. The strength of the latter should be increased and the needless appointments in the superior ranks abolished.

(5) Another serious drawback was the absence of the necessary number of public latrines in the town. He suggested that a large number of latrines should be constructed in suitable localities in the town.

(6) Referring to the proposal to transfer some of the public roads to the control of the Committees, he said that the transfer should not be effected in so far as Trivandrum was concerned. Whatever might be the need for or the advantages resulting from such a change in other towns, the town of Trivandrum, he feared, would be worse if the roads were to be maintained and controlled by the Committee.

(7) More recreation grounds should be provided for the town. At present, the public park and the beach were the only two places of resort. To remove an inconvenience felt in the latter place, he suggested the construction of one or two sheds at a moderate cost, for the use of the people gathering at the beach.

Dewan's reply.—Probably, a greater number of scavengers are necessary for the town of Trivandrum. The matter will be considered. As regards the tanks, estimates have already been called for for improving some of them, and when they are received, the tanks will be taken up one after another. As for latrines, an estimate has recently been sanctioned for the construction of 8 latrines for the town. In addition to them, the Public Works Department will put up 16 latrines in different parts of the town.

The other points mentioned by the Member are noted.

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